



MINISTRY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Christ United Methodist Church
Owen Brown Interfaith Center, Columbia, Maryland



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND



MARCH MATCH ENDOWMENT KICK-OFF: A JOYFUL SUCCESS AND A NEW BEGINNING!

Our March Match Endowment Kick-Off has officially wrapped up, and we are thrilled to share wonderful news. Thanks to your generosity, prayers, and enthusiasm, as of April 13th, we have received 20 donations totaling \$23,293 to launch CUMC's Endowment Fund. This amount will be doubled to \$46,586 (from interest earned on the equity from CUMC's parsonage sale some years ago), and the combined amount will comprise the Endowment Fund's starting principal. This is an extraordinary milestone, and it reflects the deep commitment of our congregation.

The Endowment represents more than a financial tool – it is a seed planted in faith. Though it begins small, it is designed to grow steadily over time, becoming a source of strength and nourishment for the ministries of tomorrow. Because the endowment principal is preserved, only a portion of the annual earnings will be used. This ensures that the seed grows and ultimately bears fruit year after year, sustaining ministry for generations to come.

Stay tuned for updates on progress in the logistical and administrative steps required to formally establish the Endowment Fund and on possibilities for how the Endowment Fund will be used to further our mission and expand our outreach.

Let us all rejoice in this initial success and continue working together to create the best future we can imagine!

The Endowment Committee

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CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Angela



Ever wonder about the different translations of the Bible? Where did they come from? Why are some so different? Which is most accurate? How and when were they translated? Which translation do we use most at CUMC? Let's dig in!

First of all, I encourage you to read multiple translations as it gives us the most full picture. You can do this easily at www.biblegateway.com where you can pick from a number of translations on a drop down menu (Spanish also available).

Second of all, it's important to understand the difference between dynamic and literal translation. Translation is a spectrum. On one far end, a language can be translated literally word for word but it will likely lose meaning and sound extremely awkward. On the other far end, a language can attempt to get at the original meaning, taking liberty with the actual words used to achieve that meaning. This leads to a more understandable text but also allows much more room for the translator's bias to enter in the picture.

Third of all, translation is an art, not a science. It requires knowledge of history, culture, economics, etc. to best understand the meaning of the text. A silly example of why context is so important: 1,000 years from now will our descendants studying the archeological and narrative remains of our culture understand the difference between a "butt dial" and a "booty call"? VERY different meanings! But you can see how they may seem like synonyms if one went with a literal word for word translation. As you can see, translation is not neutral and it's never exact. That's why it is so important to put scripture in conversation with our tradition, reason, and experience, a core tenet of Methodist theology.

As for specific translations, here are a few notes on some common translations:

Common English Bible (CEB): We occasionally use this version in CUMC worship. This translation was completed in 2011 by 120 scholars from mainline Protestant denominations with the goal of achieving a 7th grade reading level. It combines an excellent balance of scholarship (translated directly from the Hebrew and Greek) and accessibility/readability. If scripture has felt inaccessible to you, I (Rev. Angela) highly recommend this translation.

King James Version (KJV): While this is held to be "the only" version by many conservative Christians, it is not the most accurate translation. It was translated in 1611, long before the Dead Sea Scrolls added to our knowledge of the biblical text and before many academic advances in translation and socio-historical context. Many have nostalgic associations with the KJV for certain passages like the 23rd Psalm and maybe the Christmas narrative in Luke. It's fine to use this occasionally; however, it should always be used in addition to other sources for best understanding. Furthermore, it's old English style prevents understanding for many in modern era.

CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Angela



New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE): This is the standard Bible used in American Roman Catholic churches in mass. It includes 7 books (together called the apocrypha) that are not present in Protestant bibles. These books include: Tobit, Judith, 1 & 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch. While this is the translation used in mass, many Catholic scholars prefer the Revised Standard Version (RSV) which is a more literal translation and is used in the catechism.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue): Unless otherwise noted, this is the translation we use for CUMC worship. NRSV has long been the gold standard in mainline protestant denominations since it was published in 1989 by the National Council of Churches and reflects the recent scholarship on the Dead Sea Scrolls (scrolls found originally in the 1940s but fragments are still being discovered today—these documents inform our best knowledge of translation of the text). The NRSVue (updated edition), with mostly minor revisions, was published in 2021. Translators came from Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox traditions. This translation does a good job of balancing literal and dynamic translation, landing in the middle of the spectrum.

New International Version (NIV): First released in 1978, it has since been updated in 1984 and 2005. It was translated by a committee of evangelical scholars. Critics (full disclosure: including me) think it takes too much liberty as a dynamic translation and is not always faithful to the original Hebrew/Greek text. Furthermore it has a bit of a conservative bias and tends to smooth over contradictions present in the text. While the goal was to make it more accessible, there are places that are arguably oversimplified in ways that obscure the meaning of the text. Clearly, I'm biased (so my apologies to those who may love this version) as this is not my preferred translation and I rarely use it.

Obviously, there are MANY more translations than this, but these are some of the most common ones. I will note that The Message is a paraphrase, NOT a translation. It takes the farthest extreme of dynamic translation, landing it in the category of paraphrase rather than "version." A few other social justice translations to mention:

The Inclusive Bible Translation: we use this occasionally at CUMC. It's a translation that seeks to be more literal in much of it but more dynamic in social construct categories such as gender (so it's very intentionally gender inclusive).

First Nations Version: This is still being translated. So far there is a New Testament and a Psalms and Proverbs available. This translation is a dynamic translation that utilizes an indigenous cultural lens for the translation.



WORSHIP

Vision Statement Series

For the first three weeks of May, we'll finish up our sermon series on our new denominational vision statement: The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

May 3rd: Disciples Serve Joyfully (1 Peter 4:8-11)

May 10th: Disciples Lead Courageously (Ephesians 6:10-18)

May 17th: Disciples Transform the World (Psalm 96:1-3)

On this day we will take a special offering along with UMCs around the world, called the Miracle Sunday Campaign, a global effort to strengthen theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. By equipping pastors, teachers, and lay leaders, the Church invests in leaders who will guide communities with wisdom, compassion, and courage. We are a part of a connectional church, and we support our siblings in Christ and their ministries around the world. This is one small way we do just that!

Season of Pentecost

May 24: The Day of Pentecost! (Acts 2:1-20)

Do you speak another language? Please contact [Rev. Angela](#) ASAP for a special part in our Call to Worship on Pentecost Sunday.

May 31: Trinity Sunday (Matthew 28:18-20)

Favorite Hymn Challenge!

Each Sunday during the month of May, you will receive a small piece of paper on which you are invited to write down your favorite three hymns. You can turn it in during the offering. Each week you can pick the same three or mix it up and choose other favorites. The more weeks you come in person in May, the more votes you get!

Why are we doing this? Well Rev. Angela is going to use this list of favorites to pick from for worship in July and August and we'll have a big reveal to find out what is CUMC's favorite hymn?! This is a tradition that Rev. Angela's home church did when she was young, and she thought it would be fun to try out at CUMC.

If at all possible, be kind to Rev. Angela who will be compiling the results and include the hymn numbers (either in the United Methodist Hymnal or The Faith We Sing) on your slip of paper. If you need a hymnal for reference, you can grab one from the side counter or the tall cabinet on Sundays. Especially if you don't have the hymn number, be sure to have the full/accurate name of the hymn so she knows for sure which hymn you mean. Rev. Angela says her home church's favorite hymn every year was *Lord of the Dance*.... We wonder what CUMC's fav. will be?!?!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Prayers of comfort for the **Lindberg family** at the loss of Phil's mother.
- **Lillian Lehnert** still has several weeks of healing ahead as she recovers from a broken wrist and she needs our support.
- Prayers for **Lucie Pelgrim** who has fallen and injured her knee.
- Our sympathy to **Greg and Natalie Swirdovich** and their family on the recent death of Natalie's father.
- **Natalie Kelley**, who has been a CUMC member since birth, will be receiving her MD degree from Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. On "Match Day" she received her first choice and will begin residency training in Emergency Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a Harvard affiliated program in Boston. CUMC sends Natalie best wishes and is proud of her accomplishments!



Samantha Farmarco
Scrib Messenger
Karen Ohlrich
Jittra Kobayashi
Greg Swirdovich
Warren Kelley
Ching-Ju Cheng
Kelli Wells
Bob Kobayashi



FELLOWSHIP

Matters

FIRST FRIDAY ON MAY FIRST

Toni and Lee Klinkenberg will welcome us to their home on Fri. May 1 at 6:30pm to enjoy First Friday. Bring a potluck dish to share, enjoy CUMC friends, and let Toni or Lee know of your plans to attend by Tues. Apr. 28.



OBIC PATIO WELCOMES THE CUMC LUNCH BUNCH!

On Thurs. May 14 at noon, join women of CUMC on the OBIC patio for our monthly potluck luncheon. The trees and plants are a beautiful setting to we enjoy spring while visiting with CUMC friends and enjoying a variety of potluck luncheon treats. If weather doesn't cooperate, we will dine indoors in Rm. B. Please RSVP to hostess Jeanette Rosenberger by Mon. May 11.



Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. — Helen Keller

CUMC CARES

Community Ministries Matter

Hey—Don't Forget to Wear Your CUMC Gear!

Your Community Ministries Team, in partnership with the Council of Ministries, is actively creating opportunities to strengthen CUMC's presence in the Owen Brown and Columbia community. You may already know some of our favorite traditions, like Hanging with Santa, the joint CUMC/UUCC Easter Egg Hunt, and our ongoing support of Cradlerock Elementary School.

We're also planning exciting new events, including a trivia fundraiser for Grassroots, a community picnic, game nights, and even a scavenger hunt!

Whenever you join us at these events, we invite you to "wave the CUMC flag" by wearing your church gear—T-shirts, hoodies, or caps. It's a simple way to share the spirit of our church and help others see the welcoming community we're building together.

Interested in getting more involved? We'd love to have you on the Community Team! Bring your ideas, energy, and enthusiasm—no need to wait for the fall campaign. Reach out to Dea Atkins or Karen Ohlrich to learn more.

Kevin Swanson

Click on the image below to shop!



Christ United Methodist Church
Logo Hug and Values - Men's T-
Shirt

\$22.49



Christ United Methodist Church
Logo Hug and Values - Women's T-
Shirt

\$22.49



Christ United Methodist Church
Logo Hug and Values - Kids'
Premium T-Shirt

\$20.99

CUMC CARES

Missions Matter

SECOND SUNDAY STOCK-UP FOR May 10

Any type of canned beans that you can contribute will assist our neighbors who need to shop at the Howard County Food Bank. Baked beans, green beans, wax beans, kidney beans, black beans, navy beans, lentils, pinto beans, garbanzo beans, soybeans, fava beans, chickpeas, edamame...and the list goes on! This healthy food is much in demand, so please consider May 10 BEAN DAY!! and bring as many cans as you can carry! The Missions Team appreciates your support. (And a special thanks to our "Delivery Angels" who transport our donations to the Food Bank!)

Lillain Lehnert



COLLECTING...DONATING

WOW! You have been most kind in donating to our recent "freeby" collections to support Ronald McDonald House patient transport (metal can tabs); Lions Club (used eyeglasses); Matthew 25: Ministries (plastic prescription bottles for developing countries) and CUMC office supplies thru Staples (used batteries). These projects will continue into the summer so remember these items in your decluttering.

Lillian Lehnert



FELLOWSHIP

Matters

Celebrating Easter with Family



GOING GREEN

Matters

Creation Care

"All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings."

– United Methodist Social Principles

CREATION CARE: Addressing the Gully Behind OBIC

We are pleased to share that the Owen Brown Interfaith Center has been awarded a \$26,000 Community Stormwater Partnership Grant to address a growing environmental and safety concern on our grounds.

Since the addition of a new wing in 2013, rainwater flowing from the roof and patio has gradually carved a deep gully into the hillside behind the building. Over time, this erosion has created a safety hazard for those walking nearby and, if left unaddressed, could eventually threaten the stability of the building itself.

Thanks to this grant, we will be implementing a thoughtful and environmentally responsible solution. The project will include conservation landscaping designed to slow and redirect water flow, along with the planting of native species whose deep roots help stabilize soil and absorb runoff. In addition, selective trimming of trees near the gully will allow more sunlight to reach the area, helping the new plants become established while still preserving the natural character of the site.

This effort builds on OBIC's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship. In keeping with that mission, we will also install educational signage to help visitors understand how these practices protect our local waterways and support a healthier ecosystem.

Work is in the planning stages, and we are hopeful that the installation will happen this spring. We look forward to sharing updates as the project progresses and to celebrating another step forward in caring for our shared home.





CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Matter

Bishop Easterling's Eastertide Message Summarize by AI

Bishop Easterling's message centers on the idea that resurrection comes through surrender to God. Reflecting on Jesus' final words—"Into your hands I commend my spirit"—she emphasizes that before the miracle of Easter, there was complete trust and self-giving.

She encourages the church to see this not just as Christ's story, but as a model for faithful living. While planning, strategy, and hard work are important, they are not enough on their own. True transformation happens when individuals and communities entrust everything—hopes, fears, ministries, and even uncertainties—to God.

In a time of change and discernment, she calls the church to move beyond relying on its own abilities and instead practice "courageous surrender." This means being willing to release control, take faithful risks, and step into an unknown future guided by God.

Drawing on biblical examples and Methodist heritage, she reassures that God is always faithful, and nothing given to God is ever lost—only transformed.

Her central challenge is this:

Don't just celebrate resurrection—live it by trusting God completely.

She closes with a hopeful affirmation that, because Christ is risen, new life is always possible, and the future is secure in God's hands.

To read the full text of Bishop Easterling's message go to: <https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/bishop-easterlings-eastertide-message/>





PARTICIPATION MATTERS

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May 2026

Date	Events
5/1	First Friday 6:30 p.m. at the Klinkenbergs' home. Please RSVP by 4/27.
5/3	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
5/6	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
5/7	Justice for All* 7:00 p.m.
5/10	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
5/13	Council on Ministries* 7:00 p.m.
5/13	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
5/14	Lunch Bunch 12:00 p.m. hosted by Jeanette Rosenberger. Please RSVP by 5/11.
5/14	SPRC* 7:00 p.m.
5/17	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
5/20	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
5/21	Ad Board* 7:00
5/23	Newsletter Deadline
5/24	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
5/27	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
5/28	Community Ministries Team* 7:00 p.m.
5/31	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.

*To join services or meetings connect through Zoom link on the front page of the CUMC Website: cumcobic.org

May 2026

Please find the new updated Worship Volunteer Instructions on the CUMC website at this link:

<https://cumcobic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/volunteer-instructions.pdf>

2026	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Liturgist	Kevin Swanson	Miamor F-W	Katie Weston	Lee Klinkenberg	Daniel Klinkenberg
Reader	Katie Swanson	Luke Weston	Rob Rosenberger	Sissy Plank	Cristin Messenger
Acolyte	Emily Walker	Sophie F-W	Miguel Llano	Emily Walker	Luke Weston
Altar Flowers	Messengers				
Tech					
Ushers 1	Lillian Lehnert	Kevin Swanson	Kevin Swanson	Lillian Lehnert	Jeanette Rosenberg
Ushers 2	Hilda Gomez	Lee Klinkenberg	Tracy Klink	Sissy Plank	Rob Rosenberger
Altar Set-up	Messenger	Klinkenberg	Kelley	Ohlrich	Duggan
Communion & Set-up	James	Gomez	Duggan	James	Karen Ohlrich
Counters 1	Austin Duggan	Kevin Swanson	Becky Nicodemus	Kevin Swanson	Becky Nicodemus
Counters 2	Tracy Klink	Mike Plank	Delvin Daniels	Lee Klinkenberg	Phil Lindberg
Nursery Volunteer					
Refreshments	Klinkenberg	Delvin Daniels	Atkins	Pittman	Becky Nicodemus
Sunday School Assist MS	Karen Ohlrich	Lisa Lindberg	Kevin Swanson	Karen Ohlrich	Deadre Atkins
Sunday School Assist ELEM	Don James	Don James	Don James	Don James	Don James

BUSINESS CORNER

Financial Information -March 2026

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget
Revenue	\$ 28,788.43	\$ 27,515.50
Expenses	\$ 30,077.89	\$ 32,673.47
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (1,289.46)	\$ (5,157.97)
Surplus or (Deficit) Per Week	\$ (24.80)	\$ (99.19)

Ad Board Minutes: March 19, 2026

Council of Ministries Minutes: March 11, 2026

*"We are on the Earth
to take care of life. We
are on the Earth to take
care of each other.*

— Xiye Bastida



HOW FAR DOES MY CUMC CONTRIBUTION STRETCH?

As we place offerings in the basket, mail, or computer, 90% of each dollar goes toward our CUMC budget expenses. The other 10% of each dollar goes to the Baltimore-Washington Conference for "Missions Shares" formerly known as Apportionments and is based on the size of the congregation. Of the 553 churches in the BW Conference, 407, including CUMC, paid their fair share in 2025.

That 10% Mission Share supports the conference ministries, their operations and finance, communications and supports the General Church. The BW Conference also contributed \$11.8 million to mission and ministry around the block and around the world. Our dollars really stretch.....!



CALENDAR

Click on the calendar to go to the interactive calendar on the website.

< > May 2026 📅 🗓️						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 2 more	27	28	29 ● 8:15pm P	30	May 1	2
3 ● 10am Wc	4	5 Cinco de M	6 ● 8:15pm P	7	8	9
10 3 more	11	12	13 2 more	14 3 more	15	16
17 ● 10am Wc	18	19	20 ● 8:15pm P	21	22	23
24 ● 10am Wc	25 Memorial	26	27 ● 8:15pm P	28	29	30
31 ● 10am Wc	Jun 1	2	3 ● 8:15pm P	4	5	6

Christ United Methodist Church, Columbia, MD GMT-04 +

At Christ United Methodist Church, all are invited to experience God’s love, build beloved community, and pursue justice for absolutely everyone. We welcome, celebrate, and affirm the sacred worth of people of every race, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, nationality, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure, and every economic, immigration, marital, and social status. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed; as such, we have committed to being an Anti-Racist church. At CUMC, believers, seekers, and doubters join together to grow in our love for one another, creation, and the Divine through worship, small groups, advocacy work, and mutual support as we strive to be the church God calls us to be!